

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Cancel)

[c02] (Currently Amended) An end assembly according to claim 1, further comprising means for attaching the hooking member to the tape rule.

[c03] (Currently Amended) ~~An end assembly according to claim 1, wherein the elbow section outwardly flares to a width exceeding a width of the plate section~~

An end assembly for a tape rule, comprising:

a hooking member for attachment to a free end of the tape rule,

the hooking member comprising a plate section, an elbow section, and an abutment section, the plate section for longitudinal alignment along the free end of the tape rule, the elbow section upwardly curving from the plate section to the abutment section, the elbow section outwardly flaring to a width exceeding a width of the plate section, the abutment section downwardly curving to a substantially perpendicular orientation to the plate section, and the abutment section downwardly extending below the tape rule,

wherein the hooking member is positioned to an article to be measured, and the abutment section contacts and frictionally engages an edge of the article.

[c04] (Currently Amended) ~~An end assembly according to claim 1, wherein the abutment section outwardly flares to a width exceeding a width of the elbow section~~

An end assembly for a tape rule, comprising:

a hooking member for attachment to a free end of the tape rule,

the hooking member comprising a plate section, an elbow section, and an abutment section, the plate section for longitudinal alignment along the free end of the tape rule, the elbow section upwardly curving from the plate section to the abutment section, the abutment section downwardly curving to a substantially perpendicular orientation to the plate section, the abutment section downwardly extending below the tape rule, and the abutment section outwardly flaring to a width exceeding a width of the elbow section,

wherein the hooking member is positioned to an article to be measured, and the abutment section contacts and frictionally engages an edge of the article.

- [c05] (Currently Amended) An end assembly according to claim 4, further comprising an open-ended notch in the abutment section, the open-ended notch upwardly extending from a lower edge of the abutment section.
- [c06] (Currently Amended) ~~An end assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a lower edge of the abutment section is rolled to a substantially cylindrical shape~~

An end assembly for a tape rule, comprising:

a hooking member for attachment to a free end of the tape rule,
the hooking member comprising a plate section, an elbow section, and an abutment section, the plate section for longitudinal alignment along the free end of the tape rule, the elbow section upwardly curving from the plate section to the abutment section, the abutment section downwardly curving to a substantially perpendicular orientation to the plate section, the abutment section downwardly extending below the tape rule, and at least a portion of a lower edge of the abutment section rolled to a substantially cylindrical shape,

wherein the hooking member is positioned to an article to be measured, and the abutment section contacts and frictionally engages an edge of the article.

- [c07]** (Original) An end assembly according to claim 6, further comprising a flap hinged to the abutment section, the flap hinging about a pin inserted through the rolled lower edge of the abutment section.
- [c08]** (Original) An end assembly according to claim 7, wherein the flap comprises a pointed tooth for penetrating the article to be measured.
- [c09]** (Original) An end assembly according to claim 7, wherein the flap comprises a two-sided notch inwardly extending from an edge of the flap, the two-sided notch forming at least two teeth for penetrating the article to be measured.
- [c10]** (Original) An end assembly according to claim 9, wherein the two-sided notch comprises a substantially right angle between a first side and a second side.
- [c11]** (Currently Amended) An end assembly according to claim 1 3, wherein the abutment section has an arcuately-shaped lower edge.
- [c12]** (New) An end assembly according to claim 4, further comprising means for attaching the hooking member to the tape rule.
- [c13]** (New) An end assembly according to claim 6, further comprising means for attaching the hooking member to the tape rule.
- [c14]** (New) An end assembly according to claim 4, further comprising an open-ended notch in the abutment section, the open-ended notch upwardly extending from a lower edge of the abutment section.

- [c15]** (New) An end assembly according to claim 6, further comprising an open-ended notch in the abutment section, the open-ended notch upwardly extending from a lower edge of the abutment section.